WASHINGTON.

SPEAKER KERR'S COMMITTEES. WESTERN MAN FOR CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS-MR. MORRISON, MR. RANDALL, MR. COX. AND EX-GOX. SWANN TO HAVE IMPORTANT CHAIRMANSHIPS-HARD MONEY MEN IN THE

IBY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19,-Speaker Kerr has devoted the most of his time since the adjournment of the House on Friday to perfecting the lists of committees, and, although he will announce them tomorrow, the work was not entirely completed at midnight, at which hour the Speaker was still in consultation with some of the most influential members of his party. The Ways and Means Committee one of the most important two in the organization of the House, will, it is reported on very high authority, be composed of the following named gentlemen: Messrs. Morrison of Illinois, Wood of New-York, Thomas of Maryland, Randolph of Virginia, Ben Hill of Georgia, Hancock of Texas, Blaine of Maine, Burchard of Illineis, Wm. D. Kelley of Pennsylvania, Garfield of Ohio, and Chapin of Massachusetts. The contest between Mr. Wood and Mr. Cox for the chairmanship of this Committee has been very bitter, especially on the part of the former, and this, with the belief of the Speaker that the Mississippi Valley is entitled to this very important and influential position, induced him to give it to Morrison. It is believed that Mr. Wood will feel his appointment as second on the Committee as a degraciation, and a report is abroad to-night that he will not accept the position. The Committee is believed to be, with two exceptions, composed entirely of hard-money men. The Chairman, Mr. Morrison, has been one of the most pronounced and uncompro mising advocates of houest currency in the West, and in 1874 distinguished himself in the Democratiand Liberal Convention at Springfield by the ability and zeal with which he labored and spoke to prevent his party from committing itself to the inflation heresy. He did this, too, when his friends beheved that it would cost him a renomination to Congress. Of course this Committee will not favor any of the schemes of the inflationists, nor will it report any bill for the payment of all or any part of the duties on imports in paper money. The appointment of a Western man to the Chairmanship of the Ways and Means Committee is an innovation on all precedents, both Republican and Democratic, and the Speaker may be accused of having given the place to Mr. Morrison to reward him his zeal in conducting the canvass for the Speakership nomination. Mr. Morrison, of all Mr. Kerr's friends, pulled the laboring oar in that canvass. He presented his name in the caucus, and it is generally admitted that to his efforts more than to those of any other friend of the successful candidate, who was on the spot, was due Mr. Kerr's triamph. The other members of the Committee are mostly strong men. Mr. Thomas was once Secretary of the Treasury, and Mr. Hancock is looked upon as one of the ablest men from the South. Mr. Blaine is placed at the head of the minority of this Committee in recognition of his leadership of the Republicans in the Mr. Garfield is transferred from the Appropriations Committee, it is understood, to relieve Mr. Raudall from a possible emlarrassment, that might result from having on his Committee a critic, who, in years of service as Chairman, had become so well informed in regard to the questions to come before the Committee. Mr. Burchard is one of the ablest and best informed Free-Traders in the House, and Mr. Kelley represents the high-tariff element.

Mr. Randali will be given the Chairmanship of the Committee on Appropriations, with Mr. Holman second. Among the others on this Committee will be Mr. Wells of Missouri, Mr. Singleton of Mississippi, and Mr. Hatcher. The remainder are said to be men who will favor a very rigid economy in publie expenditures. Mr. Randall will perhaps be disposed to liberality, but Mr. Holman is the most un tiring member of the House in his opposition to every expenditure that can in any way be cut off. Mr. Wells hoped to be made Chairman of the Committee on Pacific Railroads, but Speaker Kerr has placed him on this Committee instead.

Mr. Cox will be Chairman of the Banking an Currency Committee, with Messrs. Payne and Scott Wike as colleagues. There is no doubt that this Committee will be as strongly in favor of hard money as the Committee of Ways and Means.

Mr. Vance of Ohio will be Chairman of the Coumittee on Printing. Mr. Clymer of Ponnsylvania will be Chairman of the Committee on the Library Mr. Waddell of North Carolina, who is a man of literary tastes, desired this place and expected it. Mr. Bereford of West Virginia will be made Chairman of the Military Committee. The only Democratic member of the present House who was on the Mili-tary Committee in the last Congress is Mr. Hunton, who was considered by many to be disqualified for the chairmanship by having commanded a Confederate regiment during the war. The Chairman of the Judiciary Committee, it is believed, will be J Proctor Knott. The Chairman of the Elections Committee will be Mr. Harris of Virginia. The Chairman of the Committee on Commerce to be Mr. Williams of Michigan, Liberal, Ex-Gov. Swann of Maryland will, t is understood, be chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs. It has long been the custon of the Speaker to place at the head of this Committee a man who is personally acceptable to the President and Secretary of State, and this custom has been observed in this case. Mr. Swann is conserva-tive on the Cuba question, and has generally agreed with Mr. Fish on other questions of foreign policy. Mr. Lamar will be chairman of the Committee on Facitic Railroads. Mr. Bright of Tennessee will be at the head of the Committee on War Claims, and Mr. Sayler of Ohio at that of the Committee on Re-

NATIONAL CEMETERIES.

AN ORDER FROM THE WAR DEPARTMENT. WASHINGTON, Dec. 19 .- The War Department has issued a general order classifying the several

National cemeteries, as follows:

National cometeries, as follows:

First Class.—Pay of Superintendent, \$75 per month.)—
Adhagtoe, Va.; Andersonville, Ga.; Beaufort, S. C.; City
of Mexico, Review; Corinta, Mass.; Gamp Nelson, Ky.;
Chattanooga, Tenn.; Chaimette, La.; Frederielsburg, Va.;
Gettyaburg, Penn.; Hanpton, Va.; Jefferson Barracko,
No.; Latte Rock, Ark; Mound Cary, th.; Memphis,
Tenn.; Murfreschoro, Tenn.; Marietta, Ga.; Nashville,
Tenn.; Natchez, Miss.; Pittsburg Landing, Tenn.; Poplar
Grove, Va.; Port Hudson, La.; Richmond, Va.; Sanisbery, N. C.; Sodders' Hone, D. C.; Vicksburg, Miss.

**Recond Class.—Pay of Superintendent, \$70 per month.)

**Accandria, Va.; Alexandria, La.; Brownsville, Texas;
Bion Rouge, La.; Barrances, Fla.; City Point, Va.;
Colpepper, Va.; Fort Leavenworth, Kan.; Fort Smith,
Ark.; Florence, S. C.; Fort Scott, Kan.; Knoxylle,
Tein.; Mill Springs, Ky.; Mobile, Ala.; Nowbern, N. C.;
Wachteler, Va.; Vorktown, Va.

Tail/Class.*—Pay of Superintendent, \$65 per month.)

**Danapols, Md.; Camp Butler, Ill.; Cold Harbor, Va.;
Danville, Va.; Fayetneville, Ark.; Fort Gibson, Indian
Fer, Fert Donelson, Tenn.; Jefferson City, Mo.; Kookuk,
Jown; New-Albany, Ind.; Springfield, Mo.

Journ Class.—Pay of Superintendent, \$60 per month.)

**Last e Ground, D. C.; Ball's Bluf, Va.; Beveriy, N. J.;
Cove Hin, Ky.; Crown Butler, M.; Cryfress Hill, N. Y.;
Pot Harrison, Va.; Fort St. Pmillp, La.; Finn's Point,
N.; Fort McPherson, Neb.; Fort Vancouver, Wash

**Tot, Glendle, Va.; Grafton, W. Va.; Lexington, Ky.;
Land, Ill; Santa Fé, N. M.; San Antonio, Texas, Seven

**Fak, Mo., are extended as follows, viz.; On the east,

The limits of the National Cemetery at Jefferson Bar-laks, Mo., are extended as follows, viz : On the east, souls, and west sides 100 feet outside the present intheing wall, and on the north side to embrace the land lying between this front of the cemetery and the present Vooden fence running toward the river from the stable, and prelonged west around the east and south sides of the post garden, provided that a suitable yard shall be teerved for the post stables.

CURRENT TOPICS AT THE CAPITAL. THE PERIODICAL MEXICAN RUMOR. WASHINGTON, Dec. 19, 1875. An absurd story, apparently originating in

of a treaty with Mexico for the acquisition by the United States of Lower California, the Mexican States of Sonora and Chihuahua, and parts of other States, is hardly worthy of contradiction. The story starts out with an assertion that should throw discredit upon the whole of it, and that is, that a final award has been made by the Commission to our citizens, which Mexico, on account of the depleted condition of her treasury, is unable to pay iu cash. The truth is that the Mexican Claims Cou sion has not yet completed its work, although the President, in his late message to Congress, said that its proceedings would soon be brought to a close, and that the result of them would then be reported to Congress. In addition to this the last correspondence or communication between the reprelished, and in which the subject of the acquisition of

side of the Mississippi River, in regard to the negotiation

lielled, and in which the subject of the acquisition of Mexican territory by the United States was mentioned, contained an assurance from Mr. Foster, our Minister, that while a continuation of the troubles on the Rio Grande border would encourage a semiment among our people in favor of such acquisition, it was not a part of the policy of our Government. The whole story was probably invented by some one interested in craims against Mexico, of which there are an immense number, for the purpose of disposing of those claims at advantageous prices, and would not be noticed now had not some cardence been given to it by respectable newspapers in the East. It is entirely without foundation in fact. INJUSTICE TO THE COURT OF CLAIMS. The officers of the Court of Claims feel aggrieved at the errors in the President's message and in he report of the Attorney-General respecting that Court. An examination of the acts of the Court shows that important mistakes have been made in both those docuents. On investigating the 2,950 cases stated in the

Attorney-General's report to have been decided by the Court of Claims in favor of claimants since its organization, it appears that over 2,000 belong to what are known "class cases," being small claims for pen-, laborers' wages, &c., averaging about \$100 each. A number of these classes were decided adversely to the chaimants by the Court of Claims, and in their favor by the Supreme Court on appeal. Of the remaining 650 cases 500 are cotton cases, the principles determining the decision of which have the principles determining the decision of which have also been established by the Supreme Court. These are paid out of the fund resulting from cotton captured during the war, and not out of the general funds—that is, the taxes in the Treasury. Another cases of this apparent preponderance of decisions in favor of claimants against the Government is that there are now more that 500 cases on the docket, which the Assistant Attorneys General have neglected to disarise, not withstanding that they have been abandoned by the claimants it thus appears that of the ordinary flugation of the Court, about but the cases have really been decided in favor of the Government.

WASHINGTON NOTES.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19, 1875. The friends of Fitz-John Porter say they have reasons for believing that the Executive authority will take no action on the request of Gen. Porter for a review of his

Mr. Henry W. Elhott of the Smithsonian Institution will appear before the Senate Committee on Territories next January to urge the enforcement of civil law in Alaska, and the witndrawai of the troops, who are utterly powerless to suppress the fillest whisly traffic now so prevalent, and the consequent disorder, ruin, and des ion that will soon involve the natives of that country. Mr. Elliott thinks that the adoption of the Sargent bill would relieve and complete the statutes of 1-08, which are amply sufficient for the protection of all our people may see proper to identify themselves the Territory. It would give Secretary Bris-tow the power to drive all the whisky tow the power to drive all the whisky smugglers out of Alaskan waters, and prohibit the use of firenems on the sea outer grounds. This would also give peace and protection to the natives, and is all the legislation as yet called for by the resources of Alaska. Mr. Elliott thanks that the centralization of civil law and power with regard to that country should be vested in some absolutely impartial and unbiased hands like those of Congress and the President, until the people of Alaska become numerous and imperfant enough to organize a Territorial government of their own. Mr. Elliott feels constrained to oppose the bill of Senatar Mitchell, for he says that the creation of the county officers up there will cause nonest men wao may accept them to starve, or tempt them to become sharks in order to live. Mr. Elliott sintes into outside of Wrangell, a unning transfer station for the uniners who mass up and down from the British Commbian gold fields on the Stickeen River, known as Cassiar, there are not over forty white residents of Alaska. The presence of a revenue steamer along the const would at once establish a means of communication between all the most important poets and halive villages in the territory, and give a sure and effective governmental supervision, carrying the misky trade, which is now unenecked.

THE FIRE RECORD.

FIRE IN THE BUFFALO EXPRESS OFFICE.

Buffalo, N. Y., Dec. 19 .- At 2:30 a. m., a broke out in the composing-room of The Morning Ex-The Pure Department worked admirably, and tents of the news room were destroyed, and that of the floors undern sain drenched. The damage is estimated at \$10,000. Fully insured. Until the damage is repaired the Commercial Advertiser gives the Express the use of type, etc., and to-mor-tors the Express will be issued on a maif sheet. The Express establishment was burned June 15, 1871, the loss at text time being \$20,000.

IN THIS CITY.

A fire occurred yesterday afternoon on the first floor of the two-story brick stable in the rear of No. 166 Fifth-ave., occupied by Dr. Egbert Guernsey of No. 18 West Twenty third-st. The loss was about \$2,000. The building was owned by the Miner estate, and was damaged about \$500. It is supposed that the stable was

At midnight last night a fire was discovered by Otheer Francis Smith of the First Precinct, in the five-story brick store at No. 128 Maiden-lane, occupled by Kerr & Doubleday, James MacBeth, and Denslov & Bush, all dealers in oil and refiners. The fire was confined to the barrels of oil in the celiar, and although not rully extinguished was not increasing at the time of

ELSEWHERE.

GALT, Out., Dec. 18 .- Hogg & Ford's outecal mili and Sider's collar and glove factory were de-troyed by the this morning. Loss, \$15,000.

DES MOINES, Iowa, Dec. 19.—Jack & Sow-

ers's flouring mill at this place was destroyed by fire last uight. The loss is about \$14,000; insurance \$4,000. MONTREAL, Dec. 18.—The building at the east end of the city, recently occupied as an insane asylum, and the Hochelaga French Caurch, were destroyed by fire last night. Total loss, \$75,000.

WALDOBORD, Me., Dec. 19 .- The large lumpering mill of Lincoln & Means of Washington, Me., was destroyed by fire this morning, together with the stock and machinery. The loss is \$5,000; insurance \$1,000. CLEVELAND, Ohio, Dec. 19 .- A fire last night destroyed W. Broderick & Co.'s broom and brush factory, Joseph Mellor's wholesale liquor store, and G. R. Hay, ward's mill supply store, on River-st. Loss, \$25,900;

GALVESTON, Texas, Dec. 19 .- The barge Terry, from Houston to Galveston, was destroyed by fire in the canal, near Morgan's Point, Friday night. 81x hundred bales of cotion were burned. It is stated that the cotton was set on lire.

NORWAY, Dec. 19 .- During services to-day a fire broke out in the Congregational Church in this place, and was entirely consumed. A high wind blowing at the time, the flames communicated to the residence of Cyrus Woodsum, which was nearly consumed. The loss is \$12,000; partially insured.

WORCESTER, Mass., Dec. 19 .- A block of wooden tenement-houses, on Sargent-st., occupied at present only by the owner, Patrick Johnson, was partly consumed by fire yesterday. Incendiary arrangements and been made to start a fire in each of the nine unoccupied houses. The loss is fully covered by an insurance of \$6,000. The weather was so cold that the fremen were covered with ice, and the hose froze as soon as the water

AN EXPRESS MESSENGER'S BAD LUCK.

Sr. Louis, Dec. 19.-Between 4 and 5 o'clock yesterday morning the United States Express car on the St. Leuis, Kansas City, and Northern train, due here at 6:15 a. m., was rebbed between Furguson and Jenning Station, some 10 or 12 miles from here. Kincaid, the messenger, says that he was lying on one of the package boxes, buif asleep, when he felt a heavy hand on his shoulder, and on turning his head around was confronted by a pistol in the hands of a masked man. Before he could speak he was seized by the collar from behind, and under cover of two more pistols in the hands of another masked man, was thrust into a large empty package box, and the hid closed on him and locked. He does not know what occurred after that until the train reached St. Louis, where he was re-leased, except that he heard the men work-ing at the sale, and supposed they were robbing it. He says the doors of the oar, bosides being locked with the ordinary enap-lock, are secured by rais, but reprinted in several newspapers on this

chains fastened on the inside. At Kansas City Kincald observed that one of the staples on the rear door had been drawn out, and that the chain on that door was useless. When he laid down on the package box, he took the precaution to place his heaviest trunk, weighing about 150 pounds, against the door, so that it could not be opened without pushing this trunk away. It was pushed away, however, and so noiselessly that the messenger did not hear it. The safe was robbed of about \$12,000.

FAILURES.

THE PROVIDENCE TOOL COMPANY EMBARRASSED. PROVIDENCE, Dec. 19 .- Greene & Cranston, bankers, suspended yesterday, and made an assignment to James Y. Smith. The liabilities are \$675,000; assets, \$400,000. The cause of fallure is announced to be ina-

bility to realize on advances made to the Providence Tool Company. Representatives of the Providence Tool Company state that the embarrassments of that Com-pany are only temporary, and do not arise from its arms every week for the arms manufactured, and has now on deposit with the Tool Company \$1,200,000 worth of guns as security for the fulfillment of their contract.

LATER.-The Providence Tool Company will issue statement to-morrow, showing that it has a contract with the Turkish Government for the manufacture of 600,000 rifles, with the option of accepting an additional order for 200,000; and that large expenditures have been made in the preparation of buildings, machinery, and 4,000 rifles per week, employing 1,800 men. During the past year the Company has reduced the debt inc in making preparations, \$600,000, and added \$300,000 to its general assets. A combination of unfortunate ca to its general assets. A combination of unfortunate circumstances, which are explained in their circular, has placed the company under mancial embarrassment, and compels it to assessed extension as will challe it to carry to successful result the enterprise in which it is engaged. A committee will be invited to examine the Company's affairs and report for the will. The statement represents that the assets of the Company at a low valuation excess, over and above its liabilities, \$1,250,000. Under the existing accepted contracts, the Company has already manufactured 220,000 rides, caving 380,000 in process or yet to be made in fulfilliment of the present confirms. Probably 100,000 of this number can be completed from materials on hand in various states of progress, and in the ably 100,000 of this number can be completed from mat-rians on hard in various stages of progress, and in the production of which one-half the cost of the labor to fully complete them has been already paid, and no further outlay is required for machinery, tools, or buildings. It is not the parpose of the officers or protein-plal stockholders of the Company, who are personally ha-ole for the inacticulates of the Company, to make any as-signment of their private estates, but hey intend to em-ploy their utmost resources to aid in extricating the Company from what they believe to be only its tempo-rary embarrassment. It is thought that if his statement had been issued four weeks ago serious embarrassment would have been avoided. The private property of the stockholders of the Company is estimated at about \$5,000,050.

S. M. GOLDSMITH & CO., BOSTON BOSTON, Dec. 19 .- The firm of J. M. Goldsmith & Co. of this city, dealers in naval stores, have failed. Their habilities are some \$123,000, including about \$20,000 as indored paper, upon which the firm will be obliged to pay 50 per cent. Their assets are non-inally \$50,000, of which only \$11,000 is cash.

RAILWAY INTERESTS.

OBJECTS OF THE TRANSPORTATION CONVEN-TION.

CHICAGO, Dec. 19.—The resolutions adopted by the Transportation Convention provide, among other things, that a committee of seven suitable persons be appointed to present the resolutions to Congress and take other steps to forward the objects advocated by them; that a memorial be prepared asking the appointment of a th houses to consider the advisability of forming a department of commerce, which shall portation, this committee to report at the next session on Resolutions recommend that the several States enact the fellowing:

First: A naw providing for the appointment of a board of indiread commissioners, with power to prescribe a uniform system of keeping accounts, and with other powers similar to those of the Railway Commissioner of Massa-

similar to those of the manual consetts.

Second: A law against stock inflation.

Third: A law probabiling representatives of the people from scaling as agents or attorneys in cases where the public interest is involved.

Fourth: A law requiring public earriers to receipt for a quantity of any commodity, and to deliver the same at its destination.

lis destination.

Fifth: A law providing uniform classification of merchanuse, and formating printing conditions on bins of lading designed to evade responsibility.

State: Common law or constitutional provision against

an Executive Committee for each State equal to number to the Congressional representation of that State, who shall be empowered to appoint sub-committees in each

Congressional District. These shall disseminate informa-

THE ERIE RECONSTRUCTION SCHEME. Owing to a blunder in the transmission to

the press of the London disputen published Saturday morning, reporting the plan of the Watkin Committee of the Eric Railway bondholders, the reading of the clause about the Eric Second Mortgage bonds was incorrect. It

IN COUNCIL OF WAR AT BOSTON.

Boston, Dec. 19 .- A large meeting of bendholders of the Eastern Railroad was held here yesterday. Baring Bros. submitted a plan for mortgaging the road for \$14,000,000, but it was not favorably received. Another committee to confer with the directors was appointed. The proposition to appoint trustees to man-age the road is considered the most reasible.

TEXAS PACIFIC'S VICE-PRESIDENT. NASHVILLE, Dec. 19. - Ex-Gov. John C. Brown has been appointed Vice-President of the Texas Pacific Railroad, and has accepted the position.

WHISKY.

MUTE AS STATUES.

Washington, Dec. 19 .- Great interest is felthere in the reports as to prominent persons being implicated in the Whisky Rings at Chicago. The Treasury officials are entirely reflect on the subject. Mr. Bluford Wilson, the Bolicitor of the Treasury, and Secretary Bristow persistently refuse to give any infor-mation on this subject.

WHEN BABCOCK IS TO PLEAD.

St. Louis, Mo., Dec. 19 .- Gen. Babcock did not arrive to-day, as he was expected by his counsel. Notice was ordered to be served on Gen. Eabcock to appear and plead to the indictment against him on Jan. 11.

CHARLES O'CONOR IMPROVING. Dr. Keyes stated, at 11 o'clock last evening, that Mr. O'Conor was still steadily improving, but that as yet he would not predict his ultimate recovery. During the day M1. O'Conor was called upon by Gov. Tilden, ex-Judge Peabody, and Chief-Justice Daly,

PARADE OF 10,000 PILGEIMS.

with whom he held brief interviews.

BUFFALO, Dec. 19. - The Pilgrims of St. Joseph's Cathedral, to the number of 10,000, paraded the streets to-day, headed by the Right Rev. Bishop Ryan and the Rev. Father P. Cronyn, editor of The Catholic Union, this being the last day of the pilgrimage. The weather here to say is the coldest of the season, the mercury registering 10° below zero.

ANOTHER DAY GRANTED AUDITOR THAYER. ALBANY, Dec. 19 .- Auditor Thayer appeared before the Investigating Committee yesterday and stated that he was compelled to ask farther postponement until Monday morning. Mr. Magone said it was his opinton from what the Auditor said, that the postponement would expedite the examination, as then it could go right on. It was then agreed to postpone the examination until Monday morning at 9 o'clock.

TELEGRAPHIC NOTES. HAL:FAX, Dec. 18.-The St. Poter's Canal is closed

MONTREAL, Dec. 18.—The Bien Public newspaper as temporarily suspended owing to mancial stringency. SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 19.—The Savage Mining company has levied an assessment of \$1 per share, delinquent

HALIFAX, Dec. 18.—Attorney-General Weeks has been elected to the Nova Scotia Legislature for Guyaborough by a majority of G.

TORONTO, Dec. 18.—The Crown's Land Report for Ontario, just issued, embracing a period of twelve months extending from November, 1874, to October, 1876, shows the total amount of acres cold to be 72,221.

PHILADELPHIA'S GUESTS.

THE FAIR OFFICIALLY RECOGNIZED. COMPANY OF 800 IN A QUAINT BANQUET ROOM-FLOWERS AND OVERCOATS-HOW-THE TOAST TO THE PRESIDENT WAS RECEIVED-MR. BLAINE CHEERED-IMPORTANT FACIS AND FIGURES.

FROM THE REGULAR CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE. PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 19.-The army of national officials and legislators who came here from Washington on Friday evening as the guests of the merchants of the city, were shown the Exhibition buildings and grounds yesterday, and entertained in superb style at a banquet in Horticultural Hall. Never before has the quiet old Quaker metropolis had so many distinguished visitors within her borders at one time. Her hospitality was more than equal to the occasion. Every one of the four hundred and odd persons who accepted the invitation of the citizens' committee was comfortably lodged, provided with everything he could desire in the way of food and drink, shown the sights he came to see, and was or will be transported back to his home without having had occasion to put his hand on his purse. By a thoughtful courtesy during the visit to the Park a member of the committee accompanied each carriage to play the part of host and explain the objects of interest. The city wore a holiday look, and the display of flags and streamers was expressive, though inadequate, of the rejoicing of the people. They took the visit of Congress and the President as a certain sign that the National Government had at last been roused to a conviction that it has a duty to perform in connection with the Centennial, and that the credit and best interests of the whole country demand that the complete success of the World's Fair of 1876 should be promptly and fully assured. An enterprise which Philadelphians have near at heart, and for which they have made extraordinary efforts, had at last received a national recognition of the most marked character. The President, the Cabinet, the Supreme Court, and both Houses of Congress had left the capital in a body for the first time in the history of the Government and had come to give their aid and countenance to the undertaking. No wonder that Philadelphia was overjoyed.

At balf-past nine in the morning-weather bright, but cold as a cutting Arctic wind could make itthe guests assembled at the Continental Hotel, and the operation of assigning them to carriages was dispatched as rapidly as was possible with so large a crowd. There were over 200 vehicles in line when the procession was formed. At about eleven the head of the long line reached the east portal of the main Exhibition building. The inspection of this and the other principal buildings occupied the the table. The toasts on "Manufactures" and time of the party until half-past twelve, when the carriages were again taken a drive to George's Hill, from which elevation there is a striking view of the score of structures of all sizes, from the quaint cottages of the English Com-Returning to Horticultural Hall, the guests and

their hosts sat down to dinner shortly after 2. The building is a large conservatory covering an acre and a halfs of ground. Its graceful Moorish architecture, the Oriental richness and warmth of color in its decoration, the profusion of floral ornaments on the tables, and the masses of foliage and bloom in the hot-houses, separated from the banqueting hall by glass partitions, made the place seem like a bit of the tropics. For the President, the supreme Court Judges, the Cabinet Ministers, and a few others of the most distinguished guests a table was placed upon a high platform at the side of the room. The other tables, thirteen in number, stood at right angles to this high official board, so that those seated at them could look upon the head of the nation without much danger of dislocating their necks. Of the dinner, it may be said that it was better than the bill of fare, which was printed in the most shockingly bad French. The service was delicient, but that was to be expected, with 800 people to be served; the wine was good, and the dishes more than fulfilled the promise of their mangled French names. As the kitchens of Mr. Proskaner, the restaurateur, were half a tion which shall aid in procuring necessary legislation on mile away, hot dishes were naturally scarce. the matter of transportation by the cheapest means pos- The hall seemed comfortably warm at first, in conhour or so at table, people began to draw on their overcoats. The President put on his hat, and most of the guests followed his prudent example. The few ladies present (there ought either to have been more or none at all) resumed their cloaks and furs. Thereafter the affair had a curiously incongruous look. There were the flowers and decorations of a grand banquet, but instead of guests in full toilet, the company looked like so many travelers at a rail-

John C. Bullitt presided, and delivered an interesting address on the magnitude, cost, and condition of the Exhibition enterprise. Comparing the work with the great Worlds' Fairs which have preceded it, he read the following statement:

Space Covered.	Cost.
London, 1851 acres.	\$1,464,000
New-York, 1853 5% acres.	500,000
Paris, 185530 acres.	4,000,000
Lendon, 186224 acres.	2,300,000
Parts, 1807 401g acres.	4,596,763
Vienna, 1873	9.850,000
Pariadelpina, 187660 acres.	6,724,350
Other facts of interest connected	with the Cen-

tennial were given, among them the following: The following is a list of the foreign nations that have accepted the invitation to take part, with the at appropriated for expenses, as far as ascertained:

Cont. Live Street, Cont.			
Great Britain, with Australia, and Canada (gold)	\$250,000	Caili	****
France and Algeria	1:20,000	and all expen's.	
Germany	171,000	Hayti	* 1000
kusaa		Venezuela	
Austria	75,000	[Ail expenses,	
Italy (Government,		am't untimited.)	
\$38,000; Cham-		Mexico	
ber of Commerce,		L. maior	\$10,000
\$33,000)	76,000	Nicaragua	4
Spain	150,000	Persia	
Japan	600,000	Lineria	****
Cauda	20000000	S 510	****
Edward	40,000	Guatemata and	
Denmara (gold)	10,500	Salvador	1000000
Swedch	120,000	Honduras	****
Norway	44,000	United States of	
Netherands tam-		Colombia	****
pie provision;		Bawait	****
amount not yet		Argentine Confed-	400000
known)	****	eration	60,000
Portugal	****	Owner of all	
Turkey	****	_goodsexhibited.]	
Egypt	****	Tanis	****
Brazil	****	Orange Free States	
Peru	****	-	2012
Licityla	****	Total	36
The following foreign nations were stated to have			
erected or to intend to erect buildings;			
Great Britain		Egypt	2
Germany			1
	1		1

The space taken by foreign nations in Exhibition Build-ngs was stated as fellows: Main Building. 21.47 Each Machinery Hall 14.00 about 25 per eart Agricultural Hall 15.00 about 25 per eart 25.00 about 25 per eart 25.00 about 25 per eart 25.00 about 2 New-York,

Connecticut,
Massachuseits,
Missouri,
Kansas,
West Virginia, Wiscousin, lowa, Minnesota, Arkausas. Itimole, Missouri, Minnesota, Min

Gifts, concessions, and interest... Further receipts from concession

Appropriation by Pennsylvania 1,000,000
Appropriation by Philadelphia 1,500,000

Total cost. \$6,724,850
Of these subscriptions and appropriations about 30 per cent have been furnished by the State of Pennsylvania and the City of Philadelphia and their citizens.

At the conclusion of Mr. Builitt's address he gave out the toasts. The first was, of course, "The Pres ident of the United States." To this the Chairman said there would be no response. There was a little applause, but it was faint and scattered. Gen. Garfield rose and proposed three cheers, but the response was distressingly feeble. Gen. Hawley, who sat at the President's table, had the presence of mind to see that something must be done, and done at once. The lack of anything like general and hearty applause was nothing less than positive discourtesy. He sprang to his feet, and in ringing, magnetic tones shouted, " Let us give three cheers for the President of the United States," putting the emphasis upon the last words, as if his meaning was, "If you are afraid of indorsing the third term by hurraling for Gen. Grant you can certainly be patriotic enough to applaud the Chief Magistrate of your country." The response was prompt and hearty. In recognition of the cheering the President only smiled and nodded slightly.

The teast to the Supreme Court was responded to very briefly by Chief-Justice Waite; that to the Senate called out an appropriate little speech from Senator Morton. Next on the programme was a toust to the House of Representatives. No sooner was it announced than there arose a spontaneous shout of "Blaine! Blaine!" from all the tables, With great difficulty, the Chairman quieted the uproar by assuring the company that Mr. Blaine would respond to another teast, and begging them to give their attention to the Hon. John Hancock of Texas. Mr. Hancock made a "peace-and-good-will" speech, which, coming from a Southern man, was timely and effective, "The Governors of the several States" was responded to by Gov. Bedle of New-Jersey; "Agriculture," by the Hon. Henry Harrison of Illinois; and then came Mr. Blaine's turn to speak to the toast of "Commerce." The tunultuous applause which greeted him as he sprang upon a chair, was evidently inspired by a desire to second his Presidential aspirations, and thus indirectly strike at Gen. Grant's supposed ambition for a third term. The ex-Speaker made a witty extemporaneous address, in which he managed to throw in some goodhumored satire on the mysterious naval preparations of Secretary Robeson, who sat near him, and to make a capital hit at the Texas Pacific Railroad scheme of Col. Thos. A. Scott, who was his next neighbor at "Mining" were omitted, and the last one upon the programme, "Education and Science," was replied to by the Hon. George Bancroft, in a thoughtful and elequent speech on the significance of the Centennial and the advan-tages to accrue from it to this country. In response to repeated calls, speeches were made by Gen. Hawley, President of the Centennial Commission, and by John Welsh, Chairman of the Board of Finance.

From the banqueting hall the guests were taken in carriages to the Machinery Hall, where a special train was in waiting for such as wished to return to Washington. A large number preferred to accept the invitation tendered them to make a longer stay. Some went back to-day, and others will remain until to-merrow morning. Among the latter are President and Mrs. Grant. The President attended Moody and Sankey's meeting this evening.

It is believed that the visit of the party of Congressmen will result in the prompt passage of a bill appropriating the \$1,500,000 needed to complete the preparations for the Exhibition and open it fre from debt. The visitors appeared to be impressed with the great size of the buildings, the rapidity with which the work has been pushed, and the economy displayed in its management. Many of them said they had no conception of what a world's fair was until they saw the vast preparations in

CAPTURED.

Washington, Dec. 19 .- The guests of the Centennial authorities who have returned from Philadelphia express themselves as much gratified with They say their hopes of the success of the enterprise were much strengthened by being made acquainted with the progress of the work, the large amount of money already subscribed, and the interest manifested by foreign Governments, which have secured ample space for the exhibition of their respective products. In addition to promised support by the members of Congress who attended the banquet, many others have privately expressed their views to the same effect. It is claimed that the million and a half of dollars asked for by the Commission will now be appropriated by Congress, in order to place the Exhibition beyond the possibility of failure.

THE NORTHER.

NEW-YORK'S EXPERIENCE OF ARCTIC WINDS. The weather for the last two or three days

has excited universal comment in and about New-York from those who had to face the sharp winds away from the fireside. But there is cause for thankfulness that it the thermometer last night indicated 38 degrees be low zero, while here it was six degrees above This was at 9 p. m., and the temperature was the lowest of this season up to that hour. The thermometer marked below zero at Duluth, 18 degrees; at Kingston, Canada, 19; at Montreal, 15; at Burlington Vt., 11; at Aibany, 3; at Rochester, 3; and at Baffalo.

2. Westward the weather was inider. It was snowing at Eric, and along the iine of the Union Pacine itadway the air was comparatively warn, the mercury maraing 48 above zero at Cheyenne. The cold was raphity growing more severe eastward hast flight, and at the same time the barometer was steadily rising. The wind on saturday blew at a far greater speed than yesterday, reaching a rate of 32 miles an hour, while it only blew 20 yesterday morning. For a full realization of what these fasts of temperature and moving air were in their effects on homan mature, it was only necessary to accompany the United States Signal officer to his scientific cyric on the top of the Equitable building at midnight. Vt., 11; at Albany, 3; at Rochester, 3; and at Baffalo

THE HUDSON AGAIN PROZEN.

POUGHKEEPSIE, N. Y., Dec. 19 .- The intense cold has about closed the river at this place, though the ice still moves slowly. The propeller John L. Hasbrouck reached here at noon, and harried away at 3 p. m. The officers report ice all the way. The propeller Miller will try to reach here to-morrow, but it is thought she will not succeed.

THE GALE OFF BLOCK ISLAND. PROVIDENCE, R. I., Dec. 19.-The steamer

A. T. Servill broke her steam pipe on a trip from Newport to Block Island on Saturday, and although within three miles of the island, the wind was so high that she was compelled to put back under sail. This is one of the coldest ments of the season. The moreory has nearly

BITTER WEATHER IN NEW-HAMPSRIRE. Boston, Dec. 19 .- The weather to-day is the

coldest of the season. At many points in New-Hamp shire the mercury ranged 20 degrees below zero. On Mount Washington, at 5 o'clock to-day, the mercury was 38 degrees below zero, and the wind blowing 90 miles an

Boston, Dec. 19 .- James Carr, 18 years

old, was found last night frozen to death on the Merrimack River at Lowell. A woodehopper named Mulien was found frozen to death near Trement, N. H.

EIGHTEEN INCHES OF SNOW. JAMESTOWN, N. Y., Dec. 19 .- There are 18 inches of snow here. The mercury yesterday was 4 do grees above zero. The weather is clear.

GALVESTON, De'. 19.—A party of Mexicans crossed the river below can Felipe Friday and stole 500 nead of cattle and 50 horses from strickland and blaughter. The citizens are raising companies and threaten to cross the river.

FOREIGN NEWS.

THE NEW FRENCH SENATE.

VERSAILLES, Saturday, Dec. 18, 1875. M. Wallon, Minister of Public Instruction, and Mgr. Dupanloup, Bishop of Orleans, were elec Senators to-day by the Assembly.

NAMES OF THE NEW SENATORS-DECISIVE TRIEMPH OF THE REPUBLICANS-THE BONAPARTISTS AND LEGITIMISTS IN A MINORITY.

The French Senate is to be composed of 300 members, of whom 225 are to be elected indirectly by the people of the several departments, and 75 are to be been chosen since the balloting began on the 9th inst. There remain only three vacancies, which will doubtless to filled to-day. The following table gives the names of the new Senators and the parties which they supports The Left, who number 24, are avowed Republicans. The Lavergne group and Left Center, 30 in number, are sincere supporters of the Republican Constitution, but are to a great extent unpledged; they are active opponents of the Bonapartists. The 12 members of the Center Right and Legitimist factions are in favor of monarchy but some of them were elected by the aid of Republicans, and are not actively heatile to the Constitution. The six Senators from Orleanist Center Right are admerit who may be expected to support loyally the Republic so long as the Government is efficient and patriotic. The Duc d'Audiffret-Pasquier and Minis ter Wallon in that list might be more properly regarded as converted Republicans. The single Bonapartiet is an adherent of the Napoleon dynasty.

LEFT-24.

M. Le Royer, M. Humbert, M. Fourcand, M. P. Morm, M. Scherer, M. Carnot, M. Cremeux, al. Cazot.

M. Testelin,
M. Corbon,
M. Magnin,
M. Lattre,
M. Corbon,
M. Marcent-Pichat,
M. Corbon,
M. Lattre,
M. Corbon,
M. Corbon,
M. Lattre,
M. Corbon,
M. Corbon, Gen. Billot, Gen. Chareton, M. Laufrey, M. Kampent, M. Cazot, Leon de Maleville,

UP AND LEFT CENTEL
M. Gautchier de Kun
R. Calmon,
M. Martet,
M. Corne,
M. Goun,
Gen. Chaoron,
M. E. Laboulaye,
M. Cordier,
M. Gendert,
M. de Chadols,
M. Berthanid,
M. Lepetit,
M. de Toequeville,
Gen. Letener-Valuzé,
M. Weiewski. EXTREME RIGHT AND LEGITIMISTS-11. te de Franciscu, M. Pajot, de Cornulier-Luci- M. Thery, M. Dumon

Count de Tréville, M. de la Eccnette, M. Kolo-Bernard, Gen. d'Aureile de Paladines Viscount de Lorgeril, Count de Douhet, ORLEANIST CENTER RIGHT-6. Gen. C. angarnier, M. Baze, Mgr. Dupantoup, Mmister Wailon. BONAPARTIS:-1.
M. Herve de Saisy, Côtes-du-Nord.

THE STEAMER AMERIQUE AT QUEENSTOWN. ROCHE'S POINT, Ireland, Dec. 18-6 p. m. The steamer Ville de Brest is now entering

Dec. 19.-The French steamer L'Amérique, which was brought into this harbor last might by the Ville de Brest, was taken in tow on the 12th, but was greatly delayed

THE STEAMER SALIER. PASSENGERS OF THE DEUTSCHLAND TAKEN ON

BOARD-THE CARGO ALL RIGHT. SOUTHAMPTON, Dec. 19 .- The North German loyds steamer Salier, which replaced the Mosel, took on board here 60 of the passengers saved from the Deatscaland, and sailed for New-York. The authorities of this port took every precantion to insure public safety while the Salier remained at the docks, and the German Consul assured the passengers that the steamer's entire cargo had been most rigidly examined.

BRITISH SUCCESSION IN MALACCA. LONDON, Saturday, Dec. 19, 1875

Sir William Jervois, the Governor of the Straits Sectioment, telegraphs to the War Office here, under date of Penang, Dec. 19:

The troops are now going up to Perak unopposed. At every place the winte flar is hoisted. The rebels retreates to Kimba by a jungle pain. The troops are pursue, but with west result is unknown.

THE WINTER CAMPAIGN IN CUBA.

HAVANA, Dec. 15 .- On the 10th inst. the insurgents, commanded by Gonzales, burned the town of Juquey Grande and the estate Rosario. On the 12th they stopped, near Palmira, about a mile from Valmaseda's camp, a train of 17 cars loaded with provisions and ammunition, to which they helped themselves and fired the

train.

THE CUBANS ON THE PROSPECT OF AMERICAN AID, From The New-York Independencia (Cuban organ.)

We are convinced that we cannot obtain a recognition of either our independence or belitgerency by the United States Government while President Grant and Mr. Pisa are la power. All our hope hes in the mecomparable patrictism and unexampled perseverance of those valiant defenders of our independence, who during more than seven years have done more for themselves with arms and the torch than could be expected under the circumstances. They have caused the impending crisis in Spain, which must result eventually in our independence. Without their valor, determination, hereism, and perseverance, Spain would long ago have recistablished her power in Caba.

TAXING INSURANCE POLICIES.

QUEBEC, Dec. 18 .- A deputation of insurance agents of Montreal waited upon the Treasurer of the Quebee Cabinet, urging upon him the inadvisability of taxing life insurance companies. They also argued that it would be unjust to tax the companies upon policies which had been already effected, or to make the tax in any way retroactive.

THE LABOR DISTURBANCES IN MONTREAL. MONTREAL, Dec. 18 .- The Recorder sensenced four of the rioters, at the City Hall this morning, to six months' imprisonment each at bard labor. The police are kept on guard, and the destitute workingmen are now prevented from gathering in large crowds Work is promised some of them on Monday.

FOREIGN NOTES.

ROME, Dec. 18 .- The Committee on the tmerican Centeunial Exhibition have received 600 appheadins for space in the Italian department. The LONDON, Dec. 18 .- Yesterday an election oc-

arred for Member of Parliament for Borsham, Susser, to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Sir W. F v. Seymour Fitzgeraid, appointed Chief Commissioner of Charities. The candidates were Major John Aldridgo, Conservative; Robert Henry Hurst, Liberal, and Mr-Worth, Conservative workingman's candidate. Mr-Horst was elected. Mr. Hurst, who is Recorder of Hast-lags, was elected over dir W. R. V. Seymour Pitzgeraid at the general election in 1868, but beaten by him in 1874.

THE COTTON MOVEMENT FOR NOVEMBER. NEW-ORLEANS, Dec. 19. - The report of the

overland cotton movement for the quarter ending Nov. 30, made up by Secretary Buck of the National Cotton Exchange, shows the net movement by rail across the continent direct from producers to have been 235,738 bales: 81,835 bales have been shipped everland direct to ualls, and 86,912 bales were in transit by various overhand routes to Eastern delivery ports at the close of November. The total supply from this year's crop during the quarter was 1,699,673. The total takings for Northern concumption during the quarter were \$15,975.

A CUSTOM-HOUSE SEIZURE. Goods valued by the Custom-house officers

senger by the steamer Russia, have been selzed. Inspector Carroll who went on board the steamer, states that Mr. Hirsch declared that there were no dutable goods in his baggage except two pieces of silk, valued at \$50. At the dock he showed great anxiety to have his baggage examined hastily, and offered to pay first \$30 and afterward \$100 to have this done. Four trunks be-louging to Hirsch filled with new and valuable goods, and a valise containing a scalakin overcoat, brought by Hirsch for a triend, who valued it at \$1,200, are now in the selsure room at the Custom-house.

at \$5,000, brought to this port by Mason Hirsch, a pas-